

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03601 170712Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SY-05 L-03 HA-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 A-01 OPR-02 /042 W
-----113366 180458Z /21
R 170522Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9417

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3601

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ASEC, ET
SUBJECT: EMBASSY DEMARCHE ON SECURITY OF AID FIELD PERSONNEL

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3513

SUMMARY: IN A RECENT MEETING AT MOFA, POLCOUNSELOR
DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF SECURITY IN THE FILD OF
AID CONTRACT PERSONNEL, RAISED BY THE RECENT DETEN-
TION OF DR. MARKARIAN. MOFA APPARENTLY SHARES
OUR CONCERN AND HAS BEEN REVIEWING THE PROBLEM.
THE ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITHOUT
CONCRETE RESULT AND REMAINS A MAJOR SOURCE OF CON-
CERN AT THE EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING POLCOUNSELOR'S AUGUST 14 MEETING WITH
TASSEW MAKONNEN, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAS
DIVISION AT MOFA, THEY DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT
OF SECURITY AND FREEDOM FOR AID CONTRACT EMPLOYEES
AND OTHER OFFICIAL AMERICANS TO CARRY OUT THEIR
ACTIVITIES. THIS ISSUE IS PARTICULARLY ACUTE FOR
THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE OF ADDIS ABABA. USING
THE MARKARIAN CASE (REFTEL) AS AN EXAMPLE,
POLCOUNSEOR STRESSED THE NEGATIVE PSYCHOLO-
GICAL CONSEQUENCES OF INCIDENTS, EVEN IF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 03601 170712Z

SUCCESSFULLY AND SPEEDILY RESOLVED. HE NOTED
THAT TWO SUCH CONSEQUENCES MIGHT BE THAT THE
INDIVIDUAL WOULD NOT WISH TO RETURN TO THE FIELD,
AND THAT OTHERS MIGHT BE DETERRED FROM TAKING
THEIR PLACES OR REMAINING ISOLATED FROM ADDIS
ABABA THEMSELVES.

2. TASSEW SAID THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED IN THE MOFA SINCE THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON AUGUST 9. HE SAID THE MOFA WAS WELL AWARE OF NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF INCIDENTS IN THE FIELD, NOTING PARTICULARLY THE POTENTIAL FOR DIFFICULTY IN THE RECENTLY AGREED TO UPPER DIDESSA PROJECT, WHERE 3 AID CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WILL BE BASED FAR FROM ADDIS.

3. TASSEW SAID THE PMGSE CLEARLY RECOGNIZED ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AND REMARKED THREE TIMES THAT THERE WAS NO GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN OF HARASSMENT DIRECTED AT AMERICANS.

4. THE PROBLEM OF SAFETY FOR AMERICANS WORKING IN THE FIELD WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE, AS IT IS SO CLOSELY LINKED TO THE PREVAILING CLIMATE OF SUSPICION AND FEAR, WHICH ITSELF IS DUE TO THE PMGSE SPONSORED OR TOLERATED USE OF PUBLIC MEDIA TO BERATE "IMPERIALISTS", AND OFTEN THEUSG BY NAME. THIS FACTOR IS GRAFTED ONTO A CERTAIN DEGREE OF NORMAL ETHIOPIAN XENOPHOBIA, AND FURTHER COMPOUNDED BY THE SECURITY-CONSCIOUS WARTIME ENVIRONMENT. THE EFFECT IS OFTEN WORSE ON THE PART OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, TRYING TO INTERPRET THE MOOD IN ADDIS ABABA, THAN IT IS HERE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 03601 170712Z

5. ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM FOR THE PMGSE TO RESOLVE IS, AS TASSEW POINTED OUT, THE TENDENCY OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY, SINCE THE REVOLUTION, TO PLACE CONSIDERABLE DISCRETIONARY POWER IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THIS HAD BEEN DONE CONSCIOUSLY UNDER THE GUISE OF "DEMOCRACY", AND THE PMGSE IS RELUCTANT TO RIDE ROUGHSHOD OVER LOCAL INITIATIVES.

6. WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS IN MANY WAYS A "CHICKEN AND EGG" SITUATION. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND THE PMGSE WE NEED TO FIND PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST IN WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE AND THEN TO START IMPLEMENTING THOSE PROJECTS. HOWEVER, TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS WITHOUT INCIDENTS WILL BE DIFFICULT UNTIL RELATIONS IMPROVE AND THE PMGSE-SPONSORED OR TOLERATED CAMPAIGN WHICH RESULTS IN SUSPICION OF USG ACTIVITIES AND MOTIVES ABATES.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT AMERICANS WORKING IN THE

FIELD MUST HAVE REGULAR AND GUARANTEED ACCESS
TO COMMUNICATION WITH THE EMBASSY FOR THEIR
OWN SAFETY, MORALE, AND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
REASONS. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR ATTEMPTS TO
ARRIVE AT AN UNDERSTANDING WHICH PROTECTS THE
SAFETY AND FREEDOM TO WORK OF AMERICANS IN THE
FIELD, BUT AT THIS TIME NO DEFINITE SOLUTION
APPEARS EVIDENT.
CHAPIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, PERSONNEL, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS03601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780337-0715
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780851/aaaabqfj.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 76067061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ADDIS ABABA 3513
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1703336
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY DEMARCHE ON SECURITY OF AID FIELD PERSONNEL
TAGS: EAID, ASEC, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/76067061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014